

Who We Are: Week 12

I. Opening Prayer

- Ask the Holy Spirit to help your group hear what He wants to teach and encourage.
- Ask God to show each person what it looks like to continue gathering, serving, and growing.

II. Weekly Sermon Discussion (20–40 minutes)

- Read the scriptures, and discuss what stood out to you.
- Engage with one another by reflecting and sharing what our Church is learning together.
- Example insights and questions are provided to help generate discussion if needed.
- Focus your conversation on the scripture and how it applies to you. Be careful of straying off topic, and if you do, encourage one another to ask, “How does this scripture apply to this?”

Continue

Read: Acts 1:14, Acts 2:42, Acts 2:46

The early church didn't experience the power of God and then move on. Scripture repeatedly says that “they continued.” They continued in prayer, teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and gathering together. Following Jesus isn't about having one powerful moment with God; it's about faithfully continuing with Him. Starting something is powerful, but transformation happens when we continue—even when we don't feel like it, when no one is watching, and when we don't immediately see the results. One of the most powerful, faith-filled things we can ever do is continue.

- Why do you think people are often better at starting than continuing?
- What does the example of the early church teach us about spiritual consistency?
- Where have you seen the difference between simply starting something and faithfully continuing?
- What area of your walk with Jesus do you need to **continue** in right now?
- What makes it difficult for you to remain consistent when you don't see immediate results?
- What would it look like for you to continue gathering, serving, and growing even when you don't feel like it?

Know Jesus

Read: Philippians 3:8

The goal of gathering, serving, and growing isn't simply to build relationships, accomplish tasks, or gain biblical knowledge. The goal is Jesus. Paul considered everything else worthless compared with knowing Christ. Jesus didn't become an addition to Paul's life—Jesus became the center of his life.

- What does it mean to you to truly know Jesus, rather than simply know about Him?
- How can gathering, serving, and growing help us know Jesus more deeply?
- What are some things that can become more important to us than knowing Jesus?
- Has there been a time when your relationship with Jesus moved from being an addition to your life to becoming the center of your life?
- How does knowing Jesus change the way you view your relationships, work, priorities, and decisions?
- What is one area where you want to know Jesus more deeply?

Make Him Known

Read: Acts 2:47

When people truly know Jesus, they can't help but make Him known. The early church continued gathering, serving, growing, and praising God, and the Lord kept adding to their number. Our responsibility is to faithfully continue what God has called us to do. As we keep gathering, serving, and growing, we create opportunities for others to encounter the Person of Jesus. When we know Jesus, we can't help but want others to know Him too.

- Why does genuinely knowing Jesus naturally lead us to want others to know Him?
- What does Acts 2:47 show us about the connection between the church's life and its witness?
- How can the way you gather, serve, and grow help someone else see Jesus?
- Who is someone in your life that you would love to see come to know Jesus?
- What is one practical way you can make Jesus known this week?

III. Share & Prayer (20-40 minutes)

Time to 'take off the mask'! Jesus doesn't want us to be hypocrites who wear masks.

- A personal life update, your current spiritual condition. Use emotional language to be real!
- Challenges or victories that you are experiencing
- What's really going on in your life? How are you doing? How can your group pray for you?
- Are there applications from the Discussion that you need prayer support?
- How can your Group support you this week?

When sharing prayer requests, include your personal prayer needs. Example – rather than simply sharing “Please pray for my friend’s cancer journey”, include personal prayer: “Please pray as I’m struggling with my friend’s cancer journey, and I need guidance on how to encourage her in this season”

Have someone, or everyone, close your time out in prayer for one another.